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# Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

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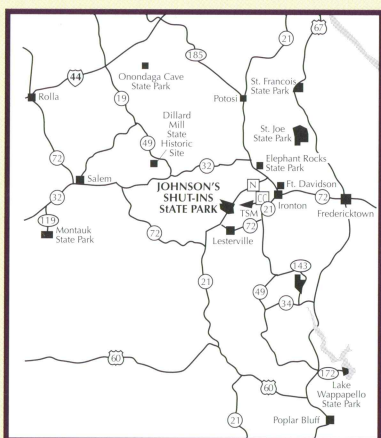
# Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

Middlebrook, Mo.

The beauty and natural wonders of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park give it a unique character, appealing to a variety of tastes. Water cascading between large, smooth rocks, creating natural waterslides, has made the park a popular recreation destination, and its landscape has peaked the curiosity of all who visit.

One and a half billion years ago, hot volcanic ash and gases spewed into the air, then cooled, forming igneous rock. Later, shallow seas covered the rock, depositing sedimentary rock. The land rose. The sea fell. The weather began tearing down the land, exposing the volcanic rock beneath it. Waters of the Black River became confined, or "shut-in," to a narrow channel. Water-borne sand and gravel cut deeply even into this erosion-resistant rock, swirling, churning...carving potholes, chutes and spectacular canyonlike gorges.

A one-fourth mile walkway takes visitors to an observation deck overlooking the shut-ins. Camping, hiking and swimming are popular pastimes, with rock climbing allowed seasonally by permit. Picnic tables, playground equipment and a reservable open picnic shelter make the park ideal for family gatherings. Basic and electric campsites are available, along with a park store. Total capacity in the day-use area is 100 vehicles so plan to arrive early. Pets are not allowed in the shut-ins.



For more information, contact **Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park**, HC Route 1, Box 126, Middlebrook, MO 63656, 573-546-2450. For information on other Missouri state parks, call toll free at 800-334-6946 (voice) or 800-379-2419 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf).

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

WEB SITE: [www.mostatoparks.com](http://www.mostatoparks.com)



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